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DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY

OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL CO-CHAIRMAN

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The Honorable Daniel R. Elliott III, Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Suite 1220
Washington, DC 20423-0001

RE: Docket No. AB-1087X

Dear Chairman Elliott:

Delta Regional Authority (DRA) respectfully submits its comments on, and protests of, the abandonment application of Grenada Railway, LLC.

The DRA is a federal independent agency established by Congress to enhance economic development and improve the quality of life for residents of the Mississippi River Delta region. The DRA territory covers 252 counties and parishes across eight states including the counties of Grenada, Montgomery, Carroll, Holmes, Yazoo, and Madison in Mississippi that are served by the Grenada Railway line.

The abandonment of this rail line will leave these counties without any viable rail service. In addition to the impact the abandonment of the rail will have on existing industry, the impact on economic development and the recruitment of new industry to the area cannot be overlooked. Many industries consider rail service when determining where to locate a new operation. Abandonment of this rail will put this already economically depressed region even more at a disadvantage when it comes to economic development and job creation.

DRA understands the impacts that low traffic count on the line have on the operations of Grenada Railway and is sympathetic to those, however, we feel that the negative impacts of abandoning the line outweigh the burden that Grenada Railway bears, and therefore respectfully urges the Board to keep the needs of rail dependent businesses and the negative impacts on communities and economic development in mind when considering the application of Grenada Railway, LLC.

Sincerely,

Christopher A. Masingill

CAM;wc:amr

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